

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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Applicant's or agent's file reference 36412WOP00	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).
International Application No. PCT/AU2003/001391	International Filing Date (day/month/year) 20 October 2003	Priority Date (day/month/year) 18 October 2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. 7 E21B 7/18, 7/04		
Applicant CMTE DEVELOPMENT LIMITED et al		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheet(s).

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 14 May 2004	Date of completion of the report 3 February 2005
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer S. GHOSH Telephone No. (02) 6283 2163

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I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the elements of the international application:***

the international application as originally filed.

the description, pages , as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of

the claims, pages , as originally filed,
pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of

the drawings, pages , as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of

the sequence listing part of the description:
pages , as originally filed
pages , filed with the demand
pages , received on with the letter of

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:

the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in written form.

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages

the claims, Nos.

the drawings, sheets/fig.

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2003/001391

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 2-9, 11	YES
	Claims 1, 10, 12, 13	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 4, 5	YES
	Claims 1-3, 6-13	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-13	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The following documents identified in the International Search Report have been considered for the purposes of this report:

D1: US 4714118 D2: US 6109370 D3: WO 97/21900 D4: US 5322134

Novelty (N) Claims 1, 10, 12, 13

Each of documents D1, D2 and D3 explicitly discloses the invention defined in claims 1 and 13. See for example, claim 1 and column 3 line 10 to column 5 line 11 in D1. Documents D2 and D3 each disclose the feature of claim 12 (see claims in D3). D1 also discloses the feature of claim 10 (column 5 lines 12-61). Whilst there is no disclosure in D4 of a flexible hose (as defined in claim 1), the document does refer to the use of retro jets and an offset jet defined in present claims 12 and 13.

The invention defined in claims 1, 12 and 13 is also explicitly disclosed in a later published document WO 2003/042491 (see Box VI).

Therefore the subject matter of these claims is not new and does not meet the requirements of Article 33(2) of the PCT with regard to novelty.

Inventive Step (IS) Claims 1-3, 6-13

Claims 1, 10, 12 and 13: as above

Claims 2, 3, 6-9: none of the cited documents disclose the features of appended claims 2, 3 and 6 to 9. However, the features added by these claims are either typical in devices of this type or are a mere workshop variation and, as such, cannot be considered as contributing to patentable ingenuity.

Claim 11: Document D3 discloses the use of a ring as part of a deflecting assembly to assist in steering the cutting apparatus of the fluid drilling system. There is no disclosure of this ring being assymetrical to the drilling head. However, an assymetrical gaging ring (as defined in present claim 11) is well known in the art (see for example WO 2003/042491 - cited in Box VI).

Therefore the subject matter of these claims is not obvious and meets the requirements of Article 33(3) of the PCT with regard to inventive step.

Industrial Applicability (IA)

The invention defined in the claims is considered to meet the requirements of Industrial Applicability under Article 33(4) of the PCT because it can be made by, or used in, industry

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VI. Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

Application No. Patent No.	Publication date (day/month/year)	Filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date (valid claim) (day/month/year)
WO 2003/042491 (X)	22 May 2003	14 November 2002	18 October 2002

This document discloses the features of claim 1 (in combination with WO 1997/021900 - cited in BoxV),
AND claims 11 to 13.

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

Kind of non-written disclosure	Date of non-written disclosure (day/month/year)	Date of written disclosure referring to non-written disclosure (day/month/year)

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